

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy comprising the following composition  
(in % by weight):

less than 1 % of Ni,

15-25 % of Cr,

4.5-12 % of Al,

[[0.5]] 2-4 % of Mo,

[[0.01]] about 0.8-1.2 % of Nb,

0-0.5 % of Ti,

0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM),

0-0.2 % of C,

0-0.2 % of N,

with the balance iron and normally occurring impurities,

wherein Mo is partly replaced by W.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Mo is  
~~entirely or partly~~ is replaced by W.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein it  
contains one or more rare earth metals (REM).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein it contains at least  $[[0,1]]$  0.1 % in total of Ti,  $[[Nb,]]$  Zr and/or Hf.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method of producing a ferritic steel alloy ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising:

cold rolling a substrate alloy to a desired thickness ~~coating a substrate alloy with Al or an alloy of Al~~, the substrate alloy having the following composition (in % by weight):

less than 1 % of Ni,

15- $[[27]]$  25 % of Cr,

0-5 % of Al,

$[[0.5]]$  2-5 % of Mo,

$[[0.01]]$  about 0.8-2 % of Nb,

0-0.5 % of Ti,

0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM),

0-0.2 % of C,

0-0.2 % of N,

with the balance iron and normally occurring impurities;

coating the substrate alloy with Al or an alloy of Al; and

annealing the coated substrate alloy to form the alloy of claim 1,

wherein a total quantity of Al in the coated substrate alloy corresponds to 5.5 to 6 %.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Product in the form of wire, strip, foil and/or tube for use in high-temperature applications wherein it is produced from a ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The product of claim 6, wherein the product is Use of a ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 as a supporting material in catalytic converter applications.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The product of claim 6, wherein the high-temperature application is a Use of a ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 in heating [[and]] or furnace application [[applications]].

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the one or more rare earth metals (REM) is Ce or La.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 5, wherein the one or more rare earth metals (REM) is Ce or La.

Claim 11 (New): Method according to claim 5, wherein Al in the substrate alloy is 2-4 %.

Claim 12 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Mo is about 2 %.

Claim 13 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Nb is about 0.8 %.

Claim 14 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 wherein Al is 5.5-6 %.

Claim 15 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has a concentration gradient of Al where the content of Al is higher at a surface than in a center of the alloy.

Claim 16 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 15, wherein a content of Al at a distance of at most 5 microns from the surface is more than 6.0 %.

Claim 17 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, Nb is about 0.8 to 1.0 %.